

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2013 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release 17
Kuskokwim River Commercial Salmon Fishing Update**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Bethel for commercial salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

The preliminary harvest from the August 13 commercial period in Subdistrict 1-B was 8,077 coho; 79 chum; 2 sockeye; and 1 king salmon from 247 permits. The harvest and catch rates of coho salmon were below average for this date. The Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) index is currently tracking above 2010 and 2012, when escapements were at the lower end of escapement goals, but it is below most other recent years. It is still early in the run at escapement projects, however escapements to date are below average at all projects.

Based on the low harvest during the August 13 commercial period and recent low catches at BTF, Subdistrict 1-B will not open on Friday, August 16. If BTF catches improve over the next two days Subdistrict 1-B could potentially open on Saturday, August 17. However, if BTF catches do not improve the next commercial period would likely be early next week.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the state web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

For additional information or questions regarding Districts 1 and Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 855-933-2433.

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